

20 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, CR

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Conversation at the Library of Congress
Concerning Preparation of a Monthly Index of Chinese
Accessions

1. There has been considerable discussion both in the USIB Community and outside concerning the need for a Monthly Index of Chinese Accessions, patterned on the similar publications issued by the Library of Congress in the fields of Russian and East European accessions respectively. Specifically, this has been on the agenda of our Committee on Procurement of Foreign Publications, and I requested a cost estimate from the Library of Congress member to use as a basis for discussion. The Library of Congress prepared an estimate in late November showing a total cost of \$460,200, including sizable equipment and salary costs, based on its experience in previous staffing patterns.

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2. The [REDACTED] 25X1A9a, [REDACTED] was asked to prepare an estimate for the project through the facilities of his already established JPRS. His estimate of 8 January 1959 was in two parts: a) \$52,600 per year for indexing only those items of interest to intelligence, and b) \$150,000 per year to prepare an index identical to the one proposed by the Library of Congress.

3. Obviously there was need for a meeting with the appropriate persons to reconcile the different proposals so that I could make a presentation to PROCIB. I called a meeting for 19 January 1959 in the office of Mr. John W. Cronin, Director of the Processing Department, Library of Congress. Present, in addition to Mr. Cronin and myself, 25X1A9a were Mr. [REDACTED] CIA, and Mr. Coffin, Deputy to Mr. Cronin.

4. Discussion developed the following major points:

- a. The Library of Congress must use U.S. Government salary standards for estimating salary costs. [REDACTED] can use lower salary standards by utilization of contract employees. 25X1A8a
[REDACTED] also need not worry about employing aliens.

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b. As it has salary standards, so the Library of Congress must maintain high editorial and production standards before it can release any publication under its imprimatur. Editorial expenses are therefore correspondingly higher. Furthermore, the Library of Congress estimates included printing the accessions list in 500 copies by photo-offset, whereas the [REDACTED] proposal was based on the costs of mineographing 125 copies.

c. There was no agreement on actual production rates in the two proposals. Library of Congress estimates an indexer to be able to do 30-40 entries per day; [REDACTED] estimates about double that rate.

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5. It seemed to me that a blending of the two proposals was called for, since [REDACTED] had inexpensive manpower immediately available and Library of Congress had the production routine of such a list, well under control. I suggested that the following steps be taken:

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a. [REDACTED] will run an experiment through JPRS for indexing issues of six different Chinese periodicals, using Library of Congress subject headings.

b. The indexed items are to be sent to Library of Congress for editorial review and comment.

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c. Another meeting will be held after the review has been made, with the same participants, to discuss further how practical it is to blend the two operations using [REDACTED] (JPRS) linguistic facilities and Library of Congress production capability.

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d. [REDACTED] will then prepare an estimate for PROCIB consideration, combining the appropriate features of the two proposals.

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[REDACTED]
Deputy Assistant Director
Central Reference

cc: Chief, OO/FDD
CIA Librarian

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OCR/[REDACTED]:hls (2045)